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recommendation this book was compiled that the social, economic, and business conditions confronting the public high school might be clear to the educators who must solve the problem of commercial education in the public schools.

The need for commercial education was recognized by the establishment of business colleges before the middle of the last century. Since 1870 the growth in the number of such institutions has been rapid, but it was not until about 1894 that the public schools assumed any considerable proportion of the work by introducing commercial courses. In the meantime, women have been taking a larger and larger place in business life and claiming as their own certain branches of office work. The necessity for giving them an adequate training is apparent, both for their own sake and for the sake of the industry they enter. The chief difficulty in the situation today is due to the fact that training was well under way before vocational guidance developed.

The investigation conducted by the Women's Educational and Industrial Union sought information with regard to schools, kinds of office service, wages, and the home life of the workers. Its conclusions emphasized the following facts: Adequate training must include four years of work and should furnish vocational guidance and office experience in conjunction with the school work. The purpose of this training should be the acquisition of as broad an education and as thorough a technical training as possible. Further, the demand from the employers for business sense, general intelligence, and personality in the workers must be recognized. The school must have the responsibility of supervision of graduates, and it must be well acquainted with employers and the needs and demands of office work. Since wages are the expression of the educational equipment of the worker in a rough sort of way, an adequate education added to years of experience is the basis for success and advancement.

The report is appreciative of the work already being done in commercial education, and is moderate in its recommendations for the future. As indicative of the practical value of its work, it is interesting to know that many of the ideas suggested in the investigation have already been utilized in the recently established Clerical School of Boston. The book itself shows something of the defects incident to a compilation by several authors, in its repetition and lack of proportion.

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*The Audacious War.* By CLARENCE W. BARRON. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1915. 8vo, pp. xiv+192. \$1.00.

According to this work from the pen of the publisher of the *Wall Street Journal*, the immediate causes of the war are directly connected with commercial treaties, protective tariffs, and economic development. The author has made a personal study of conditions in Europe and is well qualified to discuss the financial and commercial aspects of the present struggle.

Germany's militarism is explained as being the natural outcome of her commercial policy. Her progress is due to her tariffs and commercial treaties. Her armies, her arms, and her armaments are the means for supporting her policy and continuing her progress. The commercial treaties wrested from France in 1871 were of greater value to Germany than was the billion dollars of war indemnity. Russia also has been suffering under the burden of the commercial treaties which Germany forced upon her while she was engaged in war with Japan.

Further causes for international rivalry are found in "the greatest commercial prizes in the world: the shores of the Mediterranean, Asia Minor, with its Bagdad Railroad headed for the Persian Gulf, Mesopotamia with its great oil-fields, undeveloped and a source of power for the re-creation of Palestine and all the lands between the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean, and Asia."

The presentation of the financial side of the war is of especial interest. Figures are included to show the cost of the conflict in both money and men. The financial problems of the warring nations are dealt with separately, and the different methods of financing adopted are described and compared. Mr. Barron has made a valuable contribution to the war literature by treating in an able manner a phase of the question that has before received limited consideration.

In regard to the outcome of the struggle, the writer's optimism appears in his belief that the sacrifice in humanity will be repaid by the realization of a greater future. To those who hope for disarmament as a means of securing world-peace, it will be encouraging to note the prediction that "after this war and a settlement of the Mexican situation, warships will be for sale at fifty cents on the dollar. Germany will have no navy of consequence, and England will reduce her present navy by at least one-half, since her expansion of late years has been forced entirely by Germany" (p. 129).

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*Agricultural Credit in Ireland.* Report of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1914. 4to, pp. xvi+407. 4s. 8d.

The subject of rural credits is attracting world-wide attention at present, and Ireland is among those countries which feel a pressing necessity for the establishment of credit facilities adapted to their agricultural communities. Large land areas are passing into the hands of the peasant proprietary, and the adoption of an efficient system of credit is patent to the success of the land movement. The governmental committee, appointed in 1912, has in this report given thoroughly the salient facts of present and past credit operations in the rural districts of Ireland; nothing has been omitted of a historical or descriptive nature that might throw light on the subject, and in addition most of the Continental systems have been reviewed and considerable attention given to rural conditions abroad.